Prejudicing the bill, he had every assurance that his ! amendment would be adopted by the other branch. The Senate had passed the bill for the relief of Mrs. Thompthe House had amended and sent to them trusting to them to adopt it, and he presumed the same of confidence might be reposed in the House. Mr. MASON thought the cases were not parallel. The

Senate could do business, the House could not. The question was taken on the amendment, and it was agreed to: Ayes 18, noes 14.

MILITARY AND CIVIL SUPERINTENDENTS.

Mr. SHIELDS moved to strike out the provise repeal ing so much of the act of 28d August, 1842, as places the superintendence of the national armories under an officer

of the ordnance corps.
On this motion a debate of some interest are which Messys, SHIELDS, DAVIS, MILLER, PEARCE, BORLAND, TOUCEY, BUTLER, BELL, MASON, CASS, PHELPS, SUMNER, and others participated, and various propositions were disagreed to. The question was taken on the naked proposition of

SHIELDS to strike out the proviso, and it was decided in the negative. Numerous other amendments were offered by Mr. SHIELDS, and adopted; among the rest an appropria-tion of five hundred thousand dollars for defence of San

Mr. HUNTER was in favor of fortifications, but this bill was not the place for them. Mr. GWIN defended the amendment with great zeal,

showing the necessity that existed for the defence of San Francisco, a port that a single ship-of-war might place under contribution, out of which a hundred millions of gold was shipped annually.

The question was taken by year and nays, and decided in the affirmative, as follows:

YEAS-Messrs. Badger, Bayard, Bell, Borland, Brooke Clarke, Cooper, Davis, Dawson, DeSaussure, Downs, Foot, Geyer, Gwin, Hamlin, Houston, Hunter, Jones of Tennessee, Mallory, Mason, Miller, Morton, Pearce, Phelps, Sebastian, Shields, Smith, Spruance, Underwood, and Walker—30. NAYS—Mesers. Adams, Atchison, Bright, Brodhead, Chase, Dodge of Wisconsin, Dodge of Iowa, Fitzpatrick, Hale, Jones of Iowa, Pettit, Rusk, Sumner, and Wade—14.

Amendments were also adopted for fortifications in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Maine, amounting to \$1,184,578. Mr. GWIN moved to amend the bill by inserting at

ppropriation for a preliminary survey of a railroad to the Pacific; which, after considerable debate, was ruled

Mr. MALLORY moved to amend the bill by inserting a clause authorizing the President of the United States to accept the services of such troops of Florida as might be raised to enforce the remnant of the Seminole Indians to This amendment was debated to a late hour, when-

BUTLER asked the unanimous consent of the Senate to introduce a bill providing for administering the oath of office to WILLIAM R. KING, Vice President elect of the United States of America

By the courtesy of the Chair, the bill was received. restion having been taken on the amendment of Mr. MALLORY, it may be regarded as still pending.] The bill was then read as follows:

Be it enacted, &c. That William L. Sharkey, who cinted consul of the United States at Havana, be and he i athorized to administer, at Havana, in the Island of William R. King, Vice President elect of the United States of America, the eath of office prescribed by the sixth article of the Constitution thereof, on the fourth day of March next, or some subsequent day, in the following terms, to wit, "I, William R. King, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States;" which cath, when thus commissioned, it shall be the duty of the said William L. Sharkey, and he is hereby required, to certify under his hand to the Congress of the United States. Sec. 2. And be it further emeted, That any judge or magis-

trate in the United States of America may administer the of March next, or on some day subsequent thereto; and the officer before whom the same shall be taken is hereby required to certify the alministration of the said oath, as is hereinbe

And by unanimous consent it was considered and rassed. REVENUE FROM POSTAL TREATY

The PRESIDENT of the Senate laid before the body a communication from the Post Office Department, made in compliance with a resolution of the 17th instant, relative to the postage collected under the postal treaty with Great

On motion by Mr. RUSK, was referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads and ordered to be The report gives the amount collected on account of the

Exitish Post office from the date of the postal treaty.

Amount due each year on adjustment of the international account :

From January 1st to June 39, 1849 .. From July 1st, 1849, to June 30, 1850... From July 1st, 1850, to June 30, 1851... ...147.063 82 .58,417,88 From July 1st, 1851, to June 30, 1852.

Making an aggregate to 30th June, 1852....\$343,081 51 added to the quarter ending June 30, 1852, that account | ble and econo not having been adjusted. Whole amount paid to British Governmen* ... \$278,481 16

Premium on exchange Amount of commissions paid to postmasters in the United States on the balance due to

Great Britain, is estimated at

Late as was the hour, the courtesy of the CHAIR was still further taxed, and the following was received:

On motion by Mr. UNDERWOOD, Resolved, That the President be requested to communicate to the Senate, if in his opinion it be not incompatible with the ablic interest, the correspondence between our Minister in the brig Gen. Armstrong, and the liability of the Portuguese Government to pay for the same.

The bill from the House for the relief of John Huffington was read and referred to the Committee of Claims. Mr. BRIGHT introduced a bill to indemnify the State of Indiana for the failure of a title to a township of land granted to said State on her a imission into the Union in 816; which was referred to the Committee on the Public

Mr. BORLAND introduced a bill for the relief of Sally

T. B. Cochrane, widow of Lieut. R. E. Cochrane, of the army; which was read and passed to a second reading. On motion by Mr. HUNTER, the Senate considered the message from the House disagreeing to the second and fourth amendments of the Senate to the bill for the support of the Military Academy; and the Senate having insisted on its amendment, a committee of conference was appointed by the Chair on the part of the Senate consisting of Messrs. Pearce, Barano, and Smelos. And the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, from the joint committee appointed to wait upon the President elect and inform him

of his election, reported-"That the committee had performed the duty assigned them: and that the President elect, in signifying his acceptance of the office to which he had been chosen by the people, said: 'You will please to communicate to the respective Houses of Congress my acceptance of the trust confided to me, and at the same time express to them my 'grateful acknowledgments, and assure them of the deep sense of obligation with which I regard this manifest *tion of confidence on the part of my countrymen. It will *be my earnest endeaver to prove that their confidence . has not been misplaced."

RECIPROCAL TRADE.

The House then resumed the consideration of the bill establishing reciprocal trade with the British North American colonies upon certain conditions, heretofore reported from the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. TUCK concluded his remarks in reply to Mr. Full LER, of Maine, and in support of the bill, contending that the lumber interest was amply provided for by it.

Mr. CLINGMAN followed, and said that he was disposed to support the substitute of the gentleman from Maine (Mr. Feller) for settling the fabors difficulties If Great Britain would allow our people to fish where her subjects do, he would be willing to permit her subjects to sell fish in our markets upon the same footing as do our own citizens. He trusted that, whatever the House might do with other subjects embraced in this question, they would adopt that portion of it in regard to the fisheries. and that the British Government would accept it. concurred with the general principles laid down by the gentleman from New York in favor of free trade with the British North American colonies, but thought they would apply with tenfold force in favor of free-trade with Great Britain. He objected not to the general principles of the report accompanying the bill, but to its limitation—to its very narrow policy. He then argued in support of his amendment to throw open our ports to free instance, and he hoped it would not be pressed.

competition with Great Britain. Mr. WELCH moved a section to the bill extending to five years the time for payment of duties upon iron im-

ported for railroad purposes.

The SPEAKER stated that the amendment was not in order, there being a motion pending to commit the bill. Mr. TOWNSHEND replied to the assertion that the agricultural interests of the Northwest would be sacrific by the bill under consideration, and declared that the people of that section did not fear competition. He urged the necessity of including coal in the provisions of the bill believing that, unless it should be inserted, Canada would not accept this measure. Besides, it would benefit the Western coal trade. Before he concluded the morning

FRAUDS UPON THE TREASURY.

Mr. KING, of New York, from the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill to prevent frauds upon the Treasury of the United States, submitted a report; which was adopted.

Mr. STUART moved that the House proceed to the consideration of business on the Speaker's table. Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, moved that the House go into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union; which motion was agreed to: Yeas 91, nays 84.

INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL. The House accordingly went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. Bocock, of Virginia, in the chair,) and resumed the consideration of the ill making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department, and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes, for the year

Mr. HOWARD resumed and concluded his remarks in pposition to the amendment of Mr. Johnson, of Arkansas, proposing to pay to the Creek nation, at the rate of twenty cents per acre, for eight millions eight hundred and forty-nine thousand acres of land taken from them, and for which no account was ever rendered, the sum of \$1,769,800, to be paid to the Indians per cepita, and to be in full of all demands that the Creek nation may have

against the Government of the United States. Mr. JOHNSON, of Arkansas, replied, and moved to add to his amendment a proviso that \$200,000 of the proposed appropriation shall be set apart and invested, under the direction of the President of the United States, in safe stock, the annual proceeds thereof to be applied to the purposes of education amongst, the Creek tribe of In-

The amendment was rejected. Mr. TOOMBS moved to amend the amendment by adding thereto a proviso that the sum of \$335,167.92 shall be set apart out of said compensation, and applied to the payment of damages committed by said Creek nation upon whites, as adjudicated and allowed by a commission

pointed in 1827; which was agreed to.
The amendment as thus amended was then resected. Other amendments were offered, principally from the Committee of Ways and Means and the Committee on Indian Affairs, and disposed of.

Mr. FITCH moved an amendment appropriating \$66,246 for payment in full of the claim under that part of the treaty of 1831 which had relation to a grant of one hundred thousand acres of land in fee simple by the Ohio Shawnees. After debate, the amendment was agreed to: Aves 65

Without disposing of the bill, the Committee rose, Mr. CLARK asked consent to move to take up Senate bill to regulate the terms of the district courts of the United States for the district of Iowa.

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, objected, believing no quo rum to be present. Mr. CLARK moved a suspension of the rules. Pending which the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1853.

IN SENATE

Mr. DAVIS, from the Committee on Commerce, report ed a bill to amend an act entitled "An act to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to license yachts, and for other purposes," so that said Secretary be authorized to grant registers as well as licenses.

Mr. D. explained the object of the bill, and asked its

immediate consideration; which was agreed to, and the bill was considered and passed.

Mr. HUNTER, from the Committee on Finance, reported House bill making appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department for the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1854, with an amendment.

[This amendment consists of an additional section, providing that in all cases where the Postmaster General shall be satisfied that money or property stolen from the United States mail shall have been exchanged for other oney or property, and, upon the conviction of the thief, has been received at the Department, the Postmaster General shall have authority, upon satisfactory evidence that the same justly belonged to any individual, firm, or corporation, to pay over such money or property to the

Mr. SHIELDS, from the Committee on Military Affairs, asked to be discharged from the further consideration of all the subjects then before that committee; which was

ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL. This bill was then taken up. The amendment of Mr. MALLORY in relation to the employment of the troops of Florida to remove the Florida Indians having been re-

motor! Mr. CHASE moved to amend the bill by inserting the following, which he did by direction of the Committee on Roads and Canals:

Sec. -. And he it further enacted, That the Secretary of ar be and he is hereby authorized, under the direction of e President of the United States, to employ such portion of the Corps of Topographical Engineers, and such other persons as he may deem necessary, to make such explorations and sur-In this amount an estimate of \$23,991.84 has been veys as he may does advisable to ascertain the most practical ble and economical route for a railroad from the Mississip river to the Pacific ocean; and that the sum of \$150,000, or much thereof as may be necessary, be and the same is hereb appropriated to defray the expense of such explorations and

Sec. -. And be it jurther conceled, That the engineers and

Sec. -. And be it further enacted. That in making such exployed under the authority of this act may be directed to act one concert with any engineers employed by any individuals or Busby. E. Carrington Cabell, Jos. Cable, Thompson Campin concert with any engineers employed by any individuals or associations for the same general object; and the Secretary of is also authorized and required to receive proposals from individuals or associations for the construction of the road be tween the valley of the Mississippi and the Pacific ocean, and lay the same before Congress at the next session. Mr. CHASE explained the object of his amendment.

And after some remarks from Messrs. RUSK and CASS s to certain terms used-

Mr. HUNTER could not agree to the amendment, as no time would be allowed for discussion by the other branch. He did not conceive it a fair course to be pursued towards the House to bring in incongruous matters, that would have to be acted on by that body without debate, and thus jeopard the safety of the bill; and, besides, would bring all matters of legislation within appropriation bills.

Mr. BUTLER opposed the amendment, on the ground that the amendment would make Congress an irresponsible despotism of the majority for carrying out favorite projects; and sooner than agree to it he would sacrifice the bill.

Mr. WALKER desired to amend the amendment. He said if the road was made in one location it would be two thousand miles over an uninhabited country; if the other, one thousand miles. If the road were surveyed and permanently laid down, and his amendment adopted, settlers would be attracted, and, settling along the line, would furnish labor, grow provisions, and manufacture the tool and implements necessary for the construction of the road. He would submit his amendment to the Senate.

The amendment was to strike out the amendment of Mr. CHASE, and insert the following:

" With a view to the ultimate construction of the railreas from some suitable point west of the Mississ ppi river to some practicable point on the coast of the Pacific ocean, or the eastraction from the constant in the jurisdiction of the United states, there shall be detailed from the corps of topographical ougineers a sufficient force, whose duty it shall be as soon as practicable, to select, survey, locate, and mark on the most proper and eligible ground, a road not more than 500 feet wide for said reilroad, and to make a report to the Secretary of War, accompanied with a map of such servey and eation, together with an approximate estimate of the cost of nstructing such a railroad.

Sec. — And be it further current, That, as soon as practice

ble after said road shall have been surveyed and located, there shall be surveyed, as the other lands of the United States have con heretofore surveyed, six townships wide on each side of a road, through the whole extent of the public lands along such road, and even numbered sections of the lands so to be surveyed, except sections 16 and 36, shall be granted and patented by the United States, free of cost, in quantities not exceeding 160 acres, to each person who shall settle up in and eccupy and cultivate the same for one year: Provided, That uch occupant shall be the head of a family; or, if single, of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, citizens of the Uni ted States, or having declared his or her intention to become such, according to the naturalization laws of the United States; and the odd number sections of said lands shall be severally held and displayed of for the ultimate construction of said railroad, and the finishing and equipment of the

Sec. -. And to it facther engeted, That the sum of dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of carrying this act into effect."

Mr. CHASE contended that the amendment would inroduce a new element; and, though willing to favor the

Mr. WALKER insisted that the amendment introduced no new element : the subject had been discussed at length, and was one dearly cherished by the American people : that, independent of the road, it had a beneficent object, which was that of giving homes to the American people. Mr. MASON could not understand how a proposition like the one before them, which had been ruled out of

order yesterday, should be offered to-day. Certainly it was the same in effect; and he raised the point of order. Mr. CHASE explained that the present amendment

SON, BUTLER, CHASE, BRIGHT, BORLAND, HALE, cedents, and he therefore supposed that this was common

to decide. Mr. BADGER (in the chair) decided the amendment of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. CHASE) to be in order; when an appeal was taken, and the CHAIR was sustained by the following vote: Yeas 40, nays 5.

therefor) of Mr. WALKER to be out of order. Mr. WALKER then materially modified his amendment, and offered it to the Senate; when

The CHAIR decided that it was in order. Mr. CHASE took an opposite view, and contended that f the first decision was correct the other was manifestly wrong, and gave his reasons for the conclusion he had arrived at.

The question was argued at some length, and the Chair was again sustained, as follows: Yeas 25, nays 10.
Mr. ADAMS then addressed the Senate at length, contending that the amendment contained all the principles of the homestead bill, and denounced that measure as

improper and irreconcilable with the Constitution.

Mr. CHARLTON followed, and was very severe on the homestead bill, and ridiculed the idea of its title, which was to encourage agriculture, &c.
Mr. DODGE, of Iowa, was zealous in its defence, declar-

ing its principles to be in harmony with republican institu-Messrs. BUTLER and RUSK also submitted some remarks; after which the further consideration was post-

be printed. POST OFFICE CONTRACT.

At this late hour the CHAIR laid before the Senate a communication from the Post Office Department, made in communication from the Post Omce Department, made in compliance with a resolution calling for copies of proposi-tions made or contracts entered into for the transporta-tion of the mail from New York, New Orleans, and Vera Cruz, to San Francisco, which, on motion of Mr. RUSK, was referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post tonds, and ordered to be printed.

[From this it appears that a contract has been entered into with A. K. Ramsay and E. H. Carmick, of New York, at \$420,000 per annum, for a semi-monthly mail from Vera Cruz, Acapulco, and Monterey to San Francisco, and back in thirteen days each way, being an extension of two of the trips on the New Orleans and Vera Cruz line through Mexico, making one through line in sixteen days between New Orleans and San Francisco. This contract to be sanctioned by Congress, and is now in New York waiting the signature of the parties.]

OCEAN STEAMERS. On motion by Mr. HUNTER, the bill from the House of Representatives making appropriation for the transpor-tation of the United States mail' by ocean steamers and therwise during the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1854, was read and referred to the Committee on Finance. And the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On motion of Mr. CABELL, of Florida, by consent, the House proceeded to consider the bill for the relief of Mrs. Mary W. Thompson and Mrs. V. Lomax, returned fam the Senate with an amendment, inserting the name of Mrs. A. M. Dade.

The amendment was concurred in. RECIPROCAL TRADE.

The House then resumed the consideration of the bill stablishing reciprocal trade with the British North American colonies upon certain conditions, heretofore reported rom the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. TOWNSHEND concluded the remarks commenced by him yesterday in support of the bill.

Mr. STUART said that, if this bill was to be passed by this Congress in any form whatever, he regarded it exceedingly important that the question should be taken upon it to-day. If this should not be done to-day, it could not under their rules be done until next Tuesday, which he thought every gentleman would admit would be quite too late to secure any definite action upon the subject by the Senate. Before he took his seat, he should therefore demand the previous question, which he thought would test the sense of the House as to whether or not they would pass this bill. He had only time to say that it embraced he settlement of the fishery question, which was of vast importance to the entire country. It also provided for the free navigation of the St. Lawrence and the canals dong it, which he regarded as a question of very great oment. It also adjusted the terms upon which trade between the British Colonies and this Government should hereafter be transacted. Now, a bill of this kind could not be framed to suit every body and all the diversified interests of this nation; and he desired to see at once if gentlemen would be willing to compromise something of ill these interests for a great and universal benefit. If they should stand by their peculiar interests, they never would adjust any national question. He hoped that the amendments offered to the bill would be voted down, and

demanded the previous question. Mr. CLINGMAN, with the view of ascertaining the ense of the House, moved to lay the bill on the table, upon which motion the yeas and nays were ordered, when ir. C. withdrew it.

Mr. ORR renewed it; and the question being taken, it was decided in the negative by the following vote: YEAS—Messrs: Aiken, Allison, Ashe, Averett, David J. Bailey, Barrere, Bell, Bibighaus, Bowie, George H. Brown, Caldwell, Clemens, Clingman, Cobb, Colcock, Curtis, Dim-mick, Dockery, Ewing, Ficklin, Henry M. Fuller, Thos. J. D. Fuller, Gamble, Harper, Houston, John W. Howe, Thomas M. Howe, Hunter, Jackson, George W. Jones, J. Glancy Jones, Kuhns, Kurtz, Landry, Letcher, Martin, McDonald, Mcother persons employed in such explorations and surveys shall be organized in as many distinct corps as there are routes to be surveyed, and their several reports shall be laid before Congress on or before the first Monday in February, 1854.

Kuhns, Kurtz, Landry, Leteher, Martin, McDonald, Medulen, Mequeen, Meacham, John Moore, Morchead, Newton, Orr, Outlaw, Perkins, Phelps, Reed, Riddle, Scurry, Skelton, Smith, Fred. P. Stanton, Alexander H. Stephens, Stratton, Strother, Wallace, Washburn, Watkins, Weich, Ad-Stratton, Strother, Wallace, Washburn, Watkins, Weich, Addison White, Williams, and Woodward—63.

bell, Cartter, Chapman, Churchwell, Clark, Cleveland, Cottman, Darby, George T. Davis, John G. Davis, Dawson, Dean Disney, Doty, Duncan, Dunham, Eastman, Edgerton, Ed-mundson, Fay, Fitch, Florence, Floyd, Gaylord, Giddings, Gilmere, Goodrich, Gorman, Green, Gray, Grow, Hall, Ham-ston, Isham G. Harris, Hart, Haws, Hascall, Haven, Hen-dricks, Henn, Hibbard, Holladay, Horaford, Howard, Thomas Y. Howe, Ingersoll, Ives, Jenkins, Andrew Johnson, James Johnson, Daniel T. Jones, George G. King, Preston King, Little, Lockhart, Mann, Mason, McLanahan, Meade, Miller, Millyon, Molary, Marche, Warren, Nakon, Nakon, Canada, Willer, Iillson, Molony, Murphy, Murray, Nabers, Samuel W. Par-er, Peaslee, Penn, Polk, Porter, Powell, Preston, Price, Rich-rdson, Robbins, Robie, Robinson, Ross, Russell, Sackett, Schermerhorn, Schoonmaker, Origen S. Seymour, Stanly, Abr'm P. Stephens, St. Martin, Stuart, Sutherland, Sweetser, Caylor, Toombs, Townshend, Venable, Walsh, Wilcox, Wildrick, and Yates-111.

The previous question was then seconded. And pending any further action on the bill, the morn-

ig hour having expired-Mr. HOUSTON moved that the House resolve itself in to Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, remarking that there remained of the session but seven working days, and that there were eight appropriation offlis to be acted upon.

The motion was agreed to.

INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL. And thereupon the House went into Committee of the Whole, (Mr. Bocock, of Virginia, in the chair,) and resumed the consideration of the bill making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the In dian Department, and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with

various Indian tribes, for the year ending June 30, 1854. Mr. PHELPS moved an appropriation of \$50,000 to enable the President of the United States to open negotiations for extinguishing the Indian title to lands within the proposed territorial limits of Nebraska. He said that the Indians wished to dispose of some of their lands, as they could not altogether subsist by the chase.

Mr. SWEETSER opposed the amendment, contending

that it would interfere with our present Indian policy-After further debate, the amendment was agreed Ayes 71, noes 50.

Mr. GENTRY moved to add a section to the bill, to the effect that if any person who is now or may be charged with the payment of any of the appropriations made by this or any other act shall pay any clerk or employé less than the law allows, and require said clerk or employe to accept or give a voucher for an amount greater than that which is received, the officer thus acting shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, shall be fined double the sum withheld, and shall be imprisoned for a term of two years upon conviction.

Mr. G. said that he desired to make a statement of facts, which, being known to the committee, he presumed would produce a unanimous vote in favor of this amend-He did not desire to go into particulars or to be ment. personal; but he would state facts which nobody could ontrovert. He knew a clerk in one of the Departments of this Government, who had been a merchant of large fortune and high character, but, becoming insolvent, he obtained a clerkship here of a thousand dollars a year, as the only means of supporting his family. He died very indigent, and the sympathy in the Department was so strong that the head of it was almost compelled, by the force of that sympathy, to appoint his son, a boy of sixteen years of age-a fine looking boy, and very competent as a clerk, writing an excellent hand-to fill the place made vacant by his father's death, that he might have the means of supporting his mother and younger brothers and sisters, thrown upon him, utterly indigent and dependant. Well, the salary was a thousand dollars per annum, and now how did it work? They put the boy in with an understanding, to which they required him to assent, that he should receipt monthly as if he was receiving a thousand dollars per year, while three hundred was offered at the instance of the Committee on Roads | dollars was transferred to some employé in the Departand Canals, while the one offered yesterday was at the suggestion of an individual Senator.

A long discussion here ensued, in which Messrs MA- In reply, they said that there was a large number of pre-

and others participated; when the Chair was called on in all the Departments of Government. Now, if the De-1 partments could take from one clerk a portion of the salary Congress had given him, they could take from him all, and if they could transfer a portion of his compensa-tion to another, they might transfer it to their own pock-In his opinion, this was precisely one of those politi The CHAIR ruled the amendment (giving his reasons | cal crimes for which impeachment was the only remedy And this was common in all the Departments here, as he understood. Certainly, in this case it was true, because the head of the Department wrote him a long letter, explaining and defending it. Voices. Who is it

Mr. GENTRY replied that it was the Secretary of the Interior. Now, in making appropriations, he thought it was the duty of the House to prevent such Executive abuses as these, and it would be a source of regret with him, as he was about to retire from public life, that he would not have an opportunity, before doing so, of co-operating in the impeachment of some head of Depart ment; for during the whole period of time he had been a member of Congress, he believed a majority of them were proper subjects of impeachment. It was his deliberate conviction that the House of Representatives was called upon to meet the contemplations of the constitution, and to teach these Executive officers of the Government that they were responsible to the popular branch of the Government. The greatest service they could perform for the ountry would be to impeach one or more of the heads of Departments, and such an example would domore good to poned until to-morrow, and the amendments ordered to the country than any thing else Congress could do.

Mr. BAYLY, of Virginia, begged leave to say that al-

though the Secretary of the Interior was no political friend of his, yet he had always been a personal friend; and without consulting the Secretary, he would undertake to say that if there was any thing in his official conduct a proper subject for investigation, he was ready to meet it.

Mr. GENTRY said that he did not intend to make any charge against the Secretary of the Interior. His attention had been called to this particular case, and last session he brought the attention of the Secretary to the abuse. He had learned through him that quite a large number of precedents existed, and had also learned from various other sources, informally, that this was a custom of the Departments. He did not intend to make an onslaught pon the Secretary of the Interior, but upon all who indulged in such abuses.

Mr. BAYLY said that as to the other Heads of Departments he had nothing to say, as they did not come from Virginia, [laughter;] but so far as the Secretary of the Interior was concerned, he would say, for the very reason that that gentleman was a Virginian, that if there was any cause of impeachment against him, he demanded it should be brought forward.

Mr. GENTRY said that, to gratify his friend from Virginia, he would state that he was a Virginian himself in the second degree. [Laughter.] He (Mr. G.) was for old Virginia whenever old Virginia was right, and was against her when wrong. The messenger to whom these three hundred dollars of this poor boy's salary had been transferred was also a Virginian, [laughter,] and then he was in the Pension Office, which he was afraid was rather

a Virginia concern. [Renewed laughter.]
Mr. STANLY defended the Secretary of the Interior The gentleman from Tennessee, although he knew about this matter at the last session, had waited until now, at the very heel of the session, before bringing it to the attention of Congress. He (Mr. S) knew Mr. Stuart to be a gentleman of irreproachable integrity and honesty. Mr. LETCHER referred to a transaction which had oc-

curred in the Census office, and read certain papers in relation thereto. Mr. GENTRY disclaimed as his motive any personal hostility or political malignity against the Secretary of the Interior. He only desired to correct what he considered a great abuse, which had grown up in the Execu-

tive Departments. Mr. ASHE said that, inasmuch as the gentleman from Virginia had brought forward before the committee the conduct of the Superintendent of the Census, as an act of justice to that gentleman he felt constrained to say that, some week or ten days ago, Mr. Kennedy authorized him to say that he desired an investigation of all the charges preferred against him. He courted an investigation at he hands of the House, and had no disposition to screen himself from an examination of the charges made against his official conduct.

Mr. TOOMBS thought that what had been stated by the gentleman from Tennessee should be examined into. In his opinion, such a practice as that which had been referred to was inconsistent with honor and honesty.

The debate was further continued by Messra. STRO-THER, GENTRY, and others. Mr. BROWN, of Mississippi, said that those persons who were charged to be guilty of these great improprie-ties would go out of office to-morrow week, and they would be succeeded by men who would not be guilty of these misdemeanors. It occurred to him that this was legislating in

advance against those who were soon to come into power, and who would no doubt administer the Government pro-Mr. TOOMBS. Will the gentleman tell us who are to me in? I should like to know.

Mr. BROWN. Why, Democrats. [Laughter.]

After further debate, the amendment was agreed to.

The bill was then laid aside to be reported to the House. COMPENSATION OF DEPOSITARIES. On motion of Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, the co then took up the bill of the Senate to provide compen tion to such persons as may be designated by the Secretary of the Treasury to receive and keep the public money under the fifteenth section of the act of sixth August, eighteen bundred and forty-six, for the additional services

required under that act, heretofore reported from the Committee of Ways and Means, with an amendment. After explanations, the amendment was agreed to, and the bill laid aside to be reported to the House.

MAIL TRANSPORTATIONS. On motion of Mr. PHELPS, the committee next proeded to consider the bill making appropriations for the ansportation of the United States mail by ocean steamers and otherwise during the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1854, which, having been read, was laid aside to be re-

orted to the House The committee then rose and reported its action to the The two bills last acted on by the committee were seve-

lly read the third time and passed.

The House next proceeded to consider the amendments made in committee to the Indian appropriation bill, and they were all agreed to.

OTHER BILLS PASSED. Mr. STANTON, of Tennessee, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported back Senate joint resolution to provide for straightening the eastern boundary line of the

The bill was then read the third time and passed

naval hospital lands, New York; which was read the third time and passed. Mr. OLDS, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, reported a bill establishing certain post routes; which was read three times and passed.

Mr. MILLSON, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, reported a bill for the relief of Edward Box: which was read three times and passed. On motion of Mr. GENTRY, under a suspension of the

rules, Senate bill for the relief of Benjamia S. Roberts was taken up, read three times, and passed. Mr. COLCOCK moved a suspension of the rules, so as to enable him to move to take up Senate resolution au-only thorizing the adjustment and payment of the claim of she Wm. Hazzard Wigg, deceased, for losses sustained by him

Pending which, the House adjourned. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1853.

during the war of the Revolution.

IN SENATE.

Mr. BORLAND asked the unanimous consent of the Senate to take up the bill for the relief of Sally T. B. ochrane, widow of the late Col. R. E. Cochrane, United States Army. It would not occupy a moment, and when read would explain itself. Consent having been given, the bill was considered and

Mr. BRADBURY obtained leave to introduce a bill to establish a court for the investigation of claims against the United States; which was referred to the Committee n the Judiciary. REAPING MACHINE.

Mr. FELCH asked the consent of the Senate to take up the bill for the relief of Hiram Moore and John Hascall which had been laid on the table on the suggestion of the Senator from New Hampshire, (Mr. HALE.) Mr. HUNTER hoped the motion would not prevail. He had given notice that he would call up the Military bill in

fifteen minutes, which had already expired. He knew that the bill now called for would give rise to debate. Mr. FELCH said it would be the last opportunity afforded him to get the bill up. He did not think it could give rise to any further discussion, as it had before been ela-

borately debated Mr. HUNTER knew it was a contested case. The Senator from Rhode Island had intimated a wish to be heard, and he submitted whether it would be right, at this late stage of the session, to take up bills of private claimants to the prejudice of measures of great public import. Mr. JONES hoped it would not be taken up. He meant oppose it, but, not expecting it to come up, was not ex-

actly prepared, as he would be to-morrow. e question having been put by the Chair, it was deided in the affirmative Mr. HUNTER said it must be evident that no more business of a public nature could be done; and he should therefore move to lay the bill on the table, and ask the

Mr. CASS thought such a course very extraordinary, immediately on a decision to take up a measure. The CHAIR. The motion is not debateable.

The yeas and nays having been ordered, the question was decided in the negative, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Badger, Brooke, Charlton, Clarke, Cooper, Dawson, Douglas, Hunter, James, Jones of Tennessee, Mangum, Morton, Pettit, Seward, Smith, Spruance, Wade—17.

NAYS—Messrs. Atchison, Bell, Borland, Bradbury, Bright, Brodhead, Cass, Chase, Davis, Dodge of Wisconsin, Downs, Felch, Fitzpatrick, Foot, Hamlin, Mallory, Norris, Phelps, Rusk, Sebastian, Sumner, Toucey, Underwood, Weller—24.

Mr. JAMES then rose and addressed the Senate at considerable length in opposition to the bill, expressing his readiness at all times to defend the rights of inventors, but at the same time to secure the public from monopo-lies. He said this patent had expired in 1850, and the patentees, after sleeping en their rights for more than two years, during which this machine had come into general use of the public, and large capital had been invested in it, they came forward to the House of Repre-sentatives and had a bill passed not only to renew their original patent, but all the improvements that had been made from time to time. He thought such a bill monstrous in itself, and if passed would do more injury to inentors than twenty such bills could ever do good.

Mr. WALKER also spoke at some length and with great earnestness against the leading features of the bill, declaring that it would be ruinous to the agricultural interests of the country, undertaking to affirm, if that bill were passed, that farmers would be liable to be stopped in their harvest, whether using Hussey's, Casey's, or McCor-mick's reaping machine, any one or all of which it would He was willing to renew the original patent, and had so informed the parties, but they were not satisfied with that. The subject had been taken out of the hands of the Judiciary and of the Patent Office, and submitted to hasty legislation. He concluded by moving to refer the bill to the Committee on Patents; which motion prevailed, and the bill was referred.

ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL. Mr. HUNTER then called up the bill making appropriations for the army; the question pending being the amendment offered by Mr. WALKER to the amendment of

Mr. CHASE. The amendment of Mr' WALKER was rejected and that

of Mr. Chase adopted.
Mr. MASON offered amendments; which were adopted. Mr. BORLAND moved to amend the bill by inserting a clause giving to the discoverer of the use of the anæsthetic agent \$100,000 when a decree of the court of New York hould name the individual entitled. This amendment was recommended by the select committee to which the subject had been referred, and was offered by direction of the

Committee on Military Affairs. Mr. BORLAND sustained the amendment at some length, and, after considerable discussion, the amendment was amended so as to provide that no part of the \$100,000 should be paid to either of the parties named in the act until he shall make oath that he has not been guilty of collusion with either of the other parties in any vay whatever

The amendment was adopted. After other amendments, one was offered by Mr.

DAWSON to appropriate \$10,000 for a Western asylum, which was decided in the affirmative. Mr. DOUGLAS moved to amend the bill by adding a in the present critical condition section, the effect of which was that the President was to increase our naval strength. to enter into contract with such person as shall make the most satisfactory proposals for defending and protecting the emigrant route and keeping up a good condi-tion of the roads through the country of the United States from the western border of the States in the Mississippi valley to the western border of California, and to the Pacific ocean, in the Territory of Oregon, on the following

onditions: 1st. To establish posts along the road at such distances as the President may designate, and keep at least twenty-six well-armed men at each post to protect emigrants, travellers, and settlers.

of said routes, with bridges or ferries across all the streams, and charge no higher rate than is prescribed by Mr. WALKER moved to amend the amendment by inserting the following :

"That, in consideration of the services required by this cetion, the President is authorized to grant such contractors four sections of land in the vicinity of such powhich said grant shall be in full of all services rendered or expenses incurred under this section."

Which was agreed to; and the amendment of Mr. Douglas, as thus amended, was passed by the following YEAS-Messrs. Borland, Bright, Brodhead, Chase, Clarke, oper, DeSaussure, Dodge of Wisconsin, Dodge of Iowa,

ouglas, Downs, Felch, Gwin, Hale, Hamlin, James, Jones of owa, Shields, Sonle, Sumner, Toucey, Wade, Walker, and eller-25. Weller—25.

NAYS—Messrs. Adams, Badger, Bell, Bradbury, Charlton,
Dawson, Fitzpatrick, Foot, Hunter, Jones of Tennessee, Mallery, Mangum, Mason, Miller, Morton, Norris, Pettit, Phelps,
Pratt, Rusk, Seward, Spruance, and Underwood—23.

The bill, after other amendments, was reported to the Senate, when a motion was made to strike out the provision for the appointment of civil instead of military superinendents of the national armories, which was decided in

A motion was then made to reconsider, pending which the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Mr. GORMAN moved to go into Committee on the Priwas concerned, it would be the same as thrown away, roses not counted.

They should let the old navy die out, as it ought to die.

oes not counted. The motion of Mr. Houston was then agreed to.

NAVY APPROPRIATION BILL. And the House accordingly went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. King, of New York, in the chair,) and proceeded to consider the bill making ppropriations for the naval service for the year ending a 30th of June, 1854.
The Committee immediately rose, when the House

dopted a resolution closing all debate on the bill in two urs, and then the Committee resumed its session. Mr. STANTON, of Tennessee, moved to amend the first tem appropriating \$2,771,448 for pay of officers and m, so as to increase the sum to \$3,126,948, provided that the number of scamen, ordinary scamen, and landsmen hereafter employed shall be increased to nine

er cent. in addition to their present rate of pay.

He said that it was well known that the Committee on Naval Affairs had not been able to report for something ike tweive months. They had prepared important meaures for the consideration of the House, and he now saw o other alternative but to present such as were most imortant as amendments to the bill before the committee. its object now was to do nothing more than to make a clain and simple statement of the amendments; and present such reasons for their adoption as he could within the brief space allotted him under the rules.

He then gave notice that at the proper time he would

offer an amendment appropriating \$2,500,000 for buildng, equipping and arming, as propellers, three frigates and the Navy that Mr. Eric-son, having so much confidence in his caloric engine, had proposed to the Department to build two ships of a large size, guarantying that they should acquire a very high degree of speed, and burn only some eight tons of coal per day. If his amendment uld be adopted, these offers would be accepted. He then proceeded to show the importance of adopting this measure at the present time. He contended that its adoption would secure economy, and said that his principal object was not so much to add to the number of vessels n the navy as it was to substitute, for our old and inefficient models, vessels built upon the most approved of our institutions, required that in time of peace our navy should be comparatively small. The proposition which he presented, although it might seem to be one of great importance, was not in contravention of this general entiment or of the nature of our institutions: it was not to create a large navy, but to create one of the greatest possible efficiency. A full investigation would bear him out in asserting that we spent nearly one million and a half of dollars annually upon the repair of vessels, which

might almost as well have been thrown into the sea. He then argued to show that we had no vessels compeent to compete with those recently built by England and France, and that in the present state of our foreign affairs we should stand prepared for every emergency. He thought we might consider ourselves as very is and believed that the time would speedily come when we would be involved in difficulties and dangers for which we would be utterly unprepared. He referred to the necessity of erecting such temporary fortifications at San Francisco as would be necessary for its defence, and thought that annexation was a better policy than the

resent system of entangling alliances. Mr. BOWIE referred to the foreign policy of the in-oming Administration, as shadowed forth by leading nembers of the Democratic party, and contended that the country was not prepared to maintain such a policy. He compared the navies of the great maritime Powers, and howed that the United States was but the sixth naval ower in the world. Having abandoned the system of fortifications, we must rely upon our navy. The great struggle of our country with other nations must be upon the ocean. Our people were essentially commercial, as well as agricultural and manufacturing, and our agriculture and manufactures would be worth nothing to us if we had not the command of the sea. In the language of Sir Walter Raleigh, "whoever commands the sea, commands the trade; and whoever commands the trade, commands the riches of the world." He then proceeded to prove that we were not only deficient in fortifications and the number of our vessels of war, but wholly deficient in number of guns and ordnance.

Mr. CABELL, of Florida, said that it was his purpose to address the committee on the propriety of establishing a line of communication between this country and China, a subject to which he had given great attention, but as the time to which the debate had been limited had nearly expired, he should have to defer his remarks to some

Mr. TOOMBS said that he had intended to present some views in regard to fortifications and the navy, and regretted that time would not now allow him to do so. He was against the amendments proposed by the gertle-man from Tennessee, because they had not sufficient time in which to consider them, and he trusted the committee would reject them, deeming it improper to Let upon such grave and important matters without due reflection. He should like to have the time to show in detail that all the money that had been expended on the navy within the last twenty years had been chrown away, squandered, without any increase of the navy in proportion.

The hour having a rived to which the debate was limited—

The CHAIRMAN stated the question to be on the first mendment of Mr. STANTON, of Tennessee.

Mr. STAP TON explained that some addition was necessary to the compensation of the seamen employed in the navy, or etherwise the number required by law could not be obtained. He also thought it was impossible for the navy to perform service with less than nine thousand Mr. FLORENCE said that there seemed to be a desire

on the part of the committee to bring about a proper re-form in the navy. The first great step is reform would be to get the materiel proper of the navy well paid. Now, the seamen composed the larger part of the navy proper, and it was admitted every where that they were not adequately paid for the services they performed Is was known that there was a marked distinction between the commencation paid to seamen in the commercial marine. compensation paid to seamen in the commercial marine and that paid to seamen in the navy, and it struck him that the first great step of reform would be to give an adequate compensation to those who fought the battles of the country

Mr. STANTON, of Ohio, moved to amend the amendment by striking out so much of it as proposed to increase the present force of the navy. He would vote to give the seamen an increase of pay, but could not vote to increase their number.

The amendment was agreed to: Ayes 73, noes not Mr. STANTON said that, as the committee had refused

o increase the number of seamen, he would withdraw

his amendment to increase the sum in the item to

\$3,126,948, and would move to increase the original amount to \$2,879,948, which would be a sufficient sum with which to pay the ten per cent. to the force already employed. He also withdrew his entire proviso, stating that it was in the power of the President to increase the compensation of the seamen, and the only thing necesfor the House was to increase the amount. Mr. MEADE said that he had compared the strength of the other navies of the world with that of the United

States, and was clearly of the opinion that it was the duty of Congress, and that it was sound policy on their part, in the present critical condition of our foreign relations, Mr. PRICE moved to increase the bounty of ten per cent. to twenty-five per cent. He thought it was very manifest that we could not obtain sufficient seamen to man our naval vessels for the very inadequate compensa-

tion they were now receiving. The object the gentleman

from Tennessee had in view in increasing the compensation of seamen was to obtain for our ships a full complement of men; but he (Mr. P.) thought that the increase would not prove sufficient for that purpose. He therefore hoped his amendment would be adopted. The amendment was rejected. The question was then taken on the amendment of Mr. 2d. To keep in repair a good wagon road along each STANTON, and it was agreed to.

Mr. STANTON, of Tennessee, moved to insert in the

"For building, equipping, and arming, with screw propellers, three frigates and three sloops-of-war, \$2,500,000, provided at least two of said frigates shall be built by contract with Capt. John Ericsson, to be fitted with his caloric agent, upon such terms and conditions as the President may pre Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, raised the question that the

amendment was not in order, not being authorized by ex-The CHAIRMAN so decided. Mr. STANTON appealed from this decision.

bill the following:

And the question being taken, the Chair was sustained: Aves 61, noes 60. Mr. STANTON, of Tennessee, moved to amend the item appropriating \$1,700,000 for repair of vessels in or-&c. by increasing the amount to \$2,500,000. dinary, and by adding a proviso that the President, instead of repairing old ships, may, in his discretion, apply any portion of the sum aforesaid towards building propellers

f an efficient character.

The CHAIRMAN ruled the amendment out of order, on the same ground that he ruled the former proposition not Mr. STANTON appealed, when-The decision of the CHAIR was sustained: Ayes 70.

Mr. STANTON, of Tennessee, then moved to decrease Se far as this money for the repair of ships of the navy

Mr. SWEETSER referred to the old commodores in the navy, and thought that they should be replaced. He was either for building new vessels or for refusing the appropriations to squander on old hulks.

Mr. TOOMBS thought that the House would perceive the mpropriety of legislating in this manner. The chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs had moved to strike out the large amount usually asked for the repair of vessels, accompanied with the declaration that the navy ought to be permitted to rot down. Now, it was not wise for them to legislate in passion. If the money was to be squandered, he thought the system ought to be altered. When the gentleman desired to reorganize the navy bet him bring in a bill, and afford the House an opportunty

to consider it and pass judgment upon it as legislators. Mr. STANTON, of Tennessee, said that in voting thee thousand, and the Secretary of the Navy is authorized to pay them, at his discretion, in the form of bounties, ten in many cases the repairs put upon a ship cost more than He did not mean to say that he it would to build it money would be actually thrown away, but that the fe-partment would have nothing to do with it but apply ifto the repairing of ships. The gentleman from Georgia and said that he ought to lay before the House a bill to rorgauize the navy. He had been trying to do that for the last twelve months, and had not been able to obtain an

opportunity to do so.

Mr. BROWN, of Mississippi, opposed the amendm of Mr. Stanton, as the appropriation was absolutelyne-cessary to keep our navy affoat. Attacks upon the ravy, such as those made by the gentleman from Ohio, has be-come quite too common. There was a time when the lavy was regarded as the right arm of the public service; and three sloops of war, two to be fitted with caloric engines. He said that he had been informed by the Secretary of to perform its whole duty? The gentleman had allo alwhen, in the history of the Government, had it ever ailed luded to the old commodores. These old men has per-formed gallant services, and there should be some voice here to shield them against reproaches. There wis not one of them that was not an honor to the service

Mr. HOUSTON then explained the necessity of this appropriation, and-Mr. SWEETSER replied to Mr. Brown, declaring that he did not intend to detract from the honor and girry of the navy. He had only intended to call the attention the country to the necessity of reform in this branch of

the public service. Messrs. STANTON, of Tennessee, MILLSON, and plans. The general sentiment of our country, the nature | CARTTER submitted a few remarks on the subject,

Mr. BROOKS moved to amend the item proposed to be stricken out by adding thereto a proviso that in any case where the repairs of a vessel would cost more than to build another, the Secretary of the Navy may use this appropriation for the construction of such other vessels as may deem advisable. He mentioned the case of the Macedonia, stating that

a large expense was incurred in cutting her down, because there was no law authorizing the building of another vessel, and then they had to rebuild her. Such now was the absurdity of the law. Mr. HOUSTON opposed the amendment. But before any question was taken—

The committee rose.

A CHARGE ANSWERED. Mr. LETCHER rose to a privileged question. He remarked that yesterday some allusion was made to the Secretary of the Interior, who was a constituent of his. He had received from the Secretary this morning a detailed statement of all the facts which were then alluded to, and he desired to lay them before the House, that they might go upon the record along with the charges mad against that officer.

After some conversation—
The SPEAKER ruled that it was not a privileged question, and that the papers could not be read to the House unless by consent Objection was made.

Mr. BRAGG moved a suspension of the rules to enable him to move to take up Senate bill to extend pre-emption rights to unsurveyed lands, and for other purposes. Mr. STANLY submitted that the question just referred to by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. LETCHER) was a

The SPEAKER said that he had not heard the papers

Mr. STANLY insisted upon their being read.

But before this was done, the House adjourned